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Item 85 of the provisional agenda*

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 47/69 H of 14 December 1992, entitled "Revenues derived from Palestine refugees' properties", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly

"...

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection and administration of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to establish a fund for the receipt of income derived therefrom, on behalf of the rightful owners;

"2. Calls once more upon Israel to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

"3. Calls upon the Governments of all the other Member States concerned to provide the Secretary-General with any pertinent information in their possession concerning Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel, which would assist the Secretary-General in the implementation of the present resolution;

"4. Deplores the refusal of Israel to cooperate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the resolutions on the question;

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* A/48/150.

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 18 February 1993, in accordance with established procedure, the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 47/69 A to K were brought to the attention of the Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine.

3. On the same date, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Government of Israel those resolutions, including resolution 47/69 H, and requested Israel to inform him by 30 June 1993 of any steps it had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of those resolutions.

4. Also on the same date, the Secretary-General sent a note verbale to all other Member States, drawing their attention to the relevant provisions of resolutions 47/69 A to K, including paragraph 3 of resolution 47/69 H, and requesting information by 30 June 1993 concerning any action taken or envisaged in relation to their implementation.

5. A reply dated 15 June 1993 was received from Israel, covering various aspects of resolutions 47/69 A to K. In the portion of the reply relating to resolution 47/69 H, the text read as follows:

"Resolution 47/69 H demonstrates its sponsors' misuse of the General Assembly for the goals of the ongoing propaganda campaign against Israel. Israel's position on this resolution has been set out in statements by Israel's representative to the Special Political Committee on 10 November 1981 (A/SPC/36/SR.28), on 15 November 1985 (A/SPC/40/SR.34), on 28 October 1986 (A/SPC/41/SR.14) and in the report of the Secretary-General (A/47/438).

"There is no legal basis for taking the steps proposed by this resolution. Property rights within the borders of a sovereign State are exclusively subject to the domestic laws of that State. The right of States to regulate and dispose of property within their territory (and the income derived from that property) is a generally accepted principle.

"Significantly, the sponsors of this resolution have not suggested at any time that similar steps be taken regarding the confiscated Jewish property in Arab countries. As a result of the 1948 war, approximately 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries were resettled in Israel. The property left behind by these Jewish refugees (estimated to be worth billions of dollars) was expropriated by the Governments of the Arab countries in which they lived. There can be no difference in law, justice or equity between the claims of Arab and Jewish property owners. By doing so, the sponsors of resolution 47/69 H are suggesting that Israel's sovereignty is limited or restricted by some provision that does not apply to other States Members of the United Nations."

6. At the time of preparation of this report, no reply had been received from any other Member State in relation to the implementation of resolution 47/69 H.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

United Nations Population Award

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award, established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers 1993, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 26 April 1982 (see annex).

* A/48/150.

ANNEX

Report on the United Nations Population Award (1993)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201 entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof, for the most outstanding contribution to the awareness of population questions or to their solutions.

2. The laureate(s) is selected by the Committee of the United Nations Population Award. The Committee is composed of representatives of 10 States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. In 1991, the Economic and Social Council selected the following countries to serve on the Committee for a period of three years, beginning in January 1992: Burundi, Belarus, Cameroon, Ecuador, El Salvador, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands and Rwanda. The Secretary-General as well as the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director of UNFPA acts as the Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

4. On 5 December 1986, the General Assembly, in its decision 41/445 amended article 2, paragraph 1 of the Regulations Governing the United Nations Population Award, contained in the annex to resolution 36/201 so that an individual and an institution may share the Award.

5. On 26 May 1987, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1987/129, amended the rules of procedure accordingly.

6. In January 1993, the Committee elected His Excellency Mr. Nicolaas H. Biegman (the Netherlands) as Chairman.

7. The following five eminent individuals served as honourary members in an advisory capacity to the Committee: Mr. Takeo Fukuda, former Prime Minister of Japan; Mr. Bradford Morse, former Administrator, United Nations Development Programme; Mr. Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, former President of Mexico; Mrs. Victoria Sekitoleko, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda; and Mrs. Robin Chandler Duke, Chairperson of Population Action International.

II. THE 1993 UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD

8. A total of 16 nominations were received for the 1993 United Nations Population Award from qualified nominators. After a thorough review of the nominations and, taking into account the views offered by the honourary members, the Committee for the United Nations Population Award selected Dr. Fred T. Sai,

of Ghana, and The Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Shimbun, of Japan, as the 1993 laureates.

9. Dr. Sai was chosen by the Committee because of his more than 20 years of leadership in the field of family planning and population. He is noted for his contributions to research on nutrition, community welfare and family planning. He was one of the founders of the National Family Planning Association of Ghana. Later, he served as Senior Population Advisor at the World Bank and also as Assistant Secretary-General of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). While at IPPF, he assisted not only in creating its African Regional Council but also in formulating National Family Planning Associations in many African countries. He has also achieved wide acclaim in his native Ghana and internationally, through a number of forums. He served as Chairman of the Main Committee of the 1984 International Conference on Population. He also chaired the 1987 World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund Meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding, the findings of which provided the impetus for the establishment of the International Code of Marketing for Breast-Milk Substitutes. In 1989, he was elected president of IPPF and was re-elected in 1992.

10. The Population Problems Research Council of the Mainichi Shimbun was chosen for its achievements in creating awareness of population issues and for publishing numerous studies, books and articles on population. The Council was created in 1949 by the Mainichi Shimbun, one of Japan's major newspaper companies, to address population concerns in Japan, which was in the midst of great confusion in the aftermath of World War II and facing a serious problem of overpopulation. The National Opinion Survey on Family Planning, conducted by the Council first in 1950 and then every two years thereafter, is the longest running and largest (in sample size) survey of its type in the world. The results of the survey have been made available though a variety of channels: the mass circulation of Mainichi Shimbun and other publications, training workshops and seminars. All these activities greatly influenced Japanese population policy and programmes, which in turn led to a sharp decline in the birth rate in Japan. The findings have been the basis for a large number of important research studies. The Council is also utilizing its knowledge and experience to help developing countries solve their population problems.

III. FINANCIAL MATTERS

11. As at 1 January 1992, the Trust Fund had a total of $608,480. A contribution of $10,000 from the Government of Mauritius and income from interest from 1992 amounted to $37,071. Expenditures in 1992, including the prizes, totalled $18,080. The closing balance as at 31 December 1992 totalled $627,471.